A QUESTION OF CLIMATE

WILLIAM ALLEN WHITE

OLONEL MORRISON had three initials, so the town naturally called him "Alphabetical" Morrison, and dropped the "Colonel." He came to our part of the country in an early day-he used to explain that they caught him in the trees, when he was drinking creek water, eating sheep-sorrel and running wild with a buffalo tail for a trolley, and that the first thing they did, after teaching him to eat out of a plate, was to set him at work in the grading gang that was laying out the Cottonwood and Walnut rivers and putting the limestone in the hills. He was one of the original five patriots who laid out the Corn Belt railroad from the Mississippi to the Pacific, and was appointed one of that committee to take the matter to New York for the inspection of capitalists, and be it said to the credit of Alphabetical Morrison that he was the only person in the crowd with money enough to pay the ferryman when he reached the Missouri river, though he had only enough to get himself across. But in spite of that the road was built, and though it missed our town, it was because we didn't vote the bonds, though old Alphabetical went through the county, roaring in the schoolhouses, bellowing at the crossroads, and doing all that a good, honest pair of lungs could do for the cause. However, he was not dismayed at his fallure, and began immediately to organize a company to build another road. We finally secured a railroad, though

Over his office door he had a sign -"Land Office"-painted on the false board front of the building in letters as big as a cow, and the first our newspaper knew of him was twenty years ago, when he brought in an order for some stationery for the Commercial club. At that time we had not heard that the town supported a Commercial club-nor had anyone else heard of it, for that matterfor old Alphabetical was the president, and his bookkeeper, with the Miss dropped off her name, was sexretary. But he had a wonderfully alluring letterhead printed, and seemed to get results, for he made a living while his competitors starved. Later, when he found time, he organized a real Commercial club, and had himself elected president of it. He used to call meetings of the club to discuss things but as no one cared much for his monologues on the future of the town, the attendance was often light. He issued circulars referring to our village as "the Queen City of the Proteins" and on the cir culars was a map, showing that the Queen City of the Prairies was "the railroad axis of the West." There was one road running into the town: the others old Alphabetical indicated with dotted lines, and explained they were in process of construction.

It was only a branch.

He became possessed of a theory that a canning factory would pay in the Queen City of the Prairies, and the first step he took toward building it was to invest in a high hat, a long coat and white vest, and a pair of mouse-colored trousers. With these and his theory he went East and returned with a contract. The canning factory went up, but the railroad rates went wrong, and the factory was never opened. Alphabetical blinked At it through his gold-rimmed glasses for a few weeks, and then organized a company to turn it into a woolen mill. He elected himself president of that company and used to bring around to our paper notices of directors' meetings, and while he was in the office he would insist that we devoted too much space to idle gossip and not enough to the commercial and industrial interests of the Queen City.

At times he would bring in an editorial that he had written himself. highly excitable and full of cyclonic language, and if we printed it Alphabetical would buy a hundred copies of the paper containing it and send their east. His office desk gradually filled with woodcuts and zinc etchings of Milldings that never existed save in his dear old head, and about twice a year during the boom days he would is a reason in everybody's mind why bring them around and have a circular printed on which were the pictures showing the imaginary public buildings and theoretical business thoroughfares of the Queen City.

The woolen mill naturally didn't pay, and he persuaded some eastern ful-looking, chubby-faced old mancapitalists to install an electric plant in the building and put a street-car line in the town, though the longest distance from one side of the place to the other was less than ten blocks. But Alphabetical was enthusiastic short it, and had the governor come down to drive the first spike. It was gold plated, and Alphabetical pulled it up and used it for a paper-weight in his office for many years, and it is now the only reminder there is in town of the street rallway, except a hard ridge of earth over the ties in the middle of Main street. When someone twitted him on the failure of the street rallway he made answer:

"Of course it failed; here I go surplus capital of the effete East, and go to the country to teach. In these building up this town-and what hap- days the girls keep the house going pens? Four thousand old silurian fos- and Alphabetical is a notary public sils comb the moss on the north side | and a justice of the peace, which of 'em, with mussel shell, and turn keeps his office going in the little old-fashioned tune.

is visionary. Here I can get a canning factory and nobody eats the goods; I hustle up a woolen factory, and the community quits wearing trousers; I build for them a streetcar line to haul them to and from their palatial residences, and what do the sun-baked human mud-turtles do but all jump off the log into the water and hide from them cars like they were charlots of fire? What this town needs is not factories, nor railroads, nor modern improvements-Old Alphabetical can get them-but the next great scheme I go into is to go down the river, get some good red mud, and make a few thousand men who will build up a town."

It has been fifteen years and over since Colonel Morrison put on his long coat and high hat and started for the money markets of the East, seeking whom he might devour. At the close of the eightles the Colonel and all his tribe found that the stock of eastern capitalists who were ready to pay good prices for the fine shimmering blue sky and bracing ozone of the West was running low. It was said in town that the Colonel had come to the end of his string, for not only were the doors of capital closed to him in the East, but newcomers had stopped looking for farms at home, There was nothing to do but to sit down and swap jack-knives with other land agents, and as they had taken most of the agencies for the best insurance companies while the Colonel was on dress parade, there was nothing left for him to do but to run for justice of the peace, and, being elected, do what he could to make his tenure for life.

Though he was elected, more out of gratitude for what he had tried to do for the town than because people thought he would make a fair judge, he got no further than his office in popular esteem. He did not seem to wear well with the people in the daily run and jostle of life. During the forty years he has been in our town, he has lived most of the time apart from the people-transacting his business in the East, or locating strangers on new lands. He has not been one of us, and there were stories affoat that his shrewdness had sometimes caused him to thrust a toe over the

the street. But every day for the past ten years he has been coming to our office for his bundle of old newspapers. These he reads carefully, and sometimes what he reads inspires him to write something for our paper on the future of the Queen City, though much oftener his articles are retrospective. He is the president of the Old Settlers' society, and once or twice a year he brings in an oblivary which he has written for the family of some old-timer.

One would think that an idler would be a nuisance in a busy pince, but, on the contrary, we all like old Alphabetical around our office. For he is an old man who has not grown sour. His smooth, fat face has not been wrinkled by the vinegar of failure. This storage unit may be either fixed and the noise that came from his or variable. The fixed condenser, lusty lungs in the old days is subsid- which consists principally of a few ing. But he has never forgiven Gen- sheets of metal foll, intersectioned beeral Durham, of the Statesman, for tween paramued paper or mica and saying of a fight between Alphabetical bound tightly together, and which, unand another land agent back in the like the variable condenser, does not sixties that "those who heard it pro- cost very much either to buy or build, nounced it the most vocal engagement is the one generally used on the rethey had ever known." That is wny celving circuit of the vacuum tube. he brings his obligaries to us: that Is why he does us the honor of bor- nnis of the receiver, the fixed condenrowing papers from us; and that is ser has the property of discharging why, on a dull afternoon, he likes to with great violence across these tersit in the old sway-back swivel-chair minnls and setting up stronger curand tell us his theory of the increase rents to act upon the magnet colls of In the rainfall, his notion about the the receiver. If the condenser were influence of trees upon the hot winds, left out of the circuit the receivers his opinion of the disappearance of would still respond to the impulses the grasshoppers. Also, that is why of the detector's rectified currents, but Short-circuiting the condenser plates we always save a circus ticket for old when they are added to the circuit, Alphabetical, just as we save one for these currents build up a voltage in each of the boys in the office.

One day he came into the office in a bad humor. He picked up a country paper, glanced it over, threw it down, kicked from under his feet a dog that had followed a subscriber into the room, and slammed his hat into the waste-basket with considerable feel-

"Well-well, what's the matter with the judiciary this morning?" someone asked the old man.

He dld not reply at once, but turned his paper over and over, apparently looking for something to interest him. Gradually the revolutions of his paper became slower and slower, dead-line of exact honesty. In the and finally he stopped turning the town he never helped us to fight for paper and began reading. It was ten



"He Likes to Sit in the Old Swayback Swivel Chair and Tell Us His Theory of the Increase in the Rainfall."

those things of which the town is or fifteen minutes before he spoke. really proud; our schools, the college, When he put down the paper his the municipal ownership of electric lights and waterworks, the public library, the abolition of the saloon, and all of the dozen small matters of public interest in which good citizens take a pride. Colonel Morrison was living his grand life, in his taflormade clothes, while his townsmen were out with their coats off making our town the substantial place it is. So in his latter days he is old Alphabetical Morrison, a man apart from us We like atm well enough, and so long as he cares to be justice of the peace no one will object, for that is his due. But, someway, there is no talk of making him county clerk; and there no party names him to run for county treasurer. He has been trying hard enough for ten years to break through the crust of the common interests that he has so long ignored. One sees him at public meetings-a rather wiston the edge of the crowd, ready to be called out for a speech. But no one calls his name; no one cares particularly what old Alphabetical has to say. Long ago he said all that he

can say to our people. The only thing that Alphabetical ever organized that paid was a famlly. In the early days he managed to get a home clear of indebtedness and was shrewd enough to keep it out of Morrisons filled the schoolhouse, and twenty years later there were so many of his girls teaching school that the school board had to make a ruling one family in the city school, in order

cherubic face was beaming, and he said:

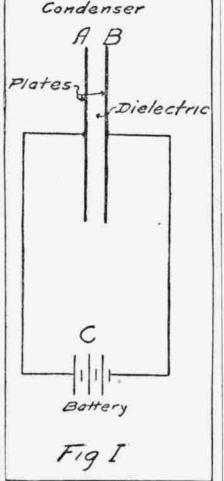
"Oh-I know I'm a fool, but I wish up so that no plate circuit will flow the Lord had sent me to live in a town large enough so that every dirtyfaced brat on the street wouldn't feel he had a right to call me 'Alphabetical'! Dammit, I've done the best I could! I haven't made any alarming success. I know it. There's no need of rubbing it in on me." He was silent for a time with his hands on his knees and his head thrown back, looking at the celling. Almost imperceptibly a smile began to crack his features, and, when he turned his eves to the man at the desk, they were dancing with merriment, as he said: "Just been reading a piece here in the Sun about the influence of climate on human endeavor. It says that in northern latitudes there is more oxygen in the air and folks breathe faster, and their blood flows faster, and that keeps their liver going. Trouble with me has always generally made from aluminum so as been climate-sluggish liver. If I had to make them as light as possible. just a little more oxygen floating round in my system, the woolen mill would still be running, the street cars would be going, and this town would have had forty thousand inhabitants. My fatal mistake was one of latitude. But"-and he drawled out the word er types. Experience has proved that mockingly-"but I guess if the Lord they keep their plates separated withall of his transactions. Tow-headed | had wanted me to make a town here out scraping and the number of plates He would have given me a different kind of liver!" He slapped his knees as he sighed: "This is a funny world, and the more you see of it the funnier limiting the number of teachers from it gets." The old man grinned complacently at the ceiling for a minute, pawing up the earth, milking out the to force the young Morrison girls to and before getting out of his chair is the shortest, and even when the kicked his shoe-heels together merrily, wiped his glasses as he rose, put his bundle of papers under his arm, and left the office whistling an old, condenser in shunt with the secondary

CONDENSER ACTS AS STORAGE TANK

How the Fixed and Variable Types Are Constructed and What They Do.

A condenser in a radio circuit is a storage tank for electrical charges.

When connected across the termithe condenser so great that when it is discharged it does so with violence. This discharge occurs at each impulse in the voice of the speaker. The voice mai state, impulses set up in the condenser are forced to discharge immediately, in charge and to prevent the condenser's the water were up to brim, and then flood gates opened so that the water all ran out. This is a good example of the manner in which the condenser



is charged and discharged. However, 'he radio impulses come so fast that the condenser charges and discharges almost instantly.

The low capacity fixed condenser in the grid circuit of the vacuum tube detector functions as a checking condenser for the radio currents to the plate of the tube and is generally about 0.0005 microfarads. Without this condenser in the tube circuit the signals will be much weaker and the bulb may have a tendency to choke through the circuit. Fixed condensers must be made of the best grade of materials possible; that is they must possess high insulating qualities so that the charges will not leak off through poor insulation. Condensers made of pure mica and copper foil are to be preferred over paper and tinfoll condensers, as they will build up their voltages to the highest point without leaking, before they suddenly dis-

Variable condensers should also possess insulating qualities and such parts as insulating bushing and top plates should be made of good grade bakelite or equally good insulating material Fiber washers and bushings soon develop leaks, as fiber has the property of absorbing moisture and warps in time, causing the plates in the condenser to touch. Variable condensers are Aluminum has the property of keeping its shape in flat plates and is also a good conductor.

Built-up variable condensers with metal washers used as separators generally give more satisfaction than othcan be increased or decreased at will, A variable condenser inserted in se-

ries with the antenna and tuner decreases the wave length of the antennn circuit as it is varied. When the plates are separated the wave length plates are intermeshed the wave length is shorter than if the condenser were out of the circuit. A variable or the tuning coll will increase the

wave length of the circuit, depending upon the number of plates that are inserted in the condenser as it is varied from 180 degrees to zero.

By reason of this characteristic the variable condenser allows for very close tuning.

A condenser consists of two electrical conductors separated by an insu-The electrical conductors are called the plates and the insulating medium separating the plates is called the dielectric.

In Fig. 1 is shown a simple condenser consisting of two plates, A and B, with air between two plates acting as the dielectric. If now a battery C is connected to the two condenser plates, the positive side of the battery to one plate and the negative side to the other plate, a current will flow. This current that flows from the battery terminals when the battery is connected to the plates of the condenser is called the charging current. During the process of charging a condenser an electric displacement takes place in the dielectric, This electric displacement gives rise to an electromotive force which tends to oppose the applied electromotive force from the battery C. Finally a point is reached where the back e. m. f. and the charging current become zero.

If the battery C be disconnected from the condenser a potential difference will exist between the two condenser plates that will just be equal to the potential of the battery C. will cause the condenser to discharge, a condition that will exist until the potential difference between the plates has been reduced to zero or until the dielectric has again resumed its nor-

The charge that can be placed on a static condenser depends upon three order to leave room for the next factors. First, the area of the condenser plates; second, the thickness and ing as he picked up a New York becoming overloaded. Just imagine a composition of the dielectric, and third, reservoir of water filling slowly until the potential difference applied to the plates by the battery C.

Watch Your "A" Battery.

When your storage battery is "cranky" do you have it recharged without having it looked over by an expert? If you do not take any notice of it you are apt to be buying a new battery in a short time, Many are the things which can go wrong in a storage battery. Here are a few of the more simple troubles which lead to bigger ones: Letting the specific gravity of the battery go without notice, not using distilled water, overcharging, letting the battery stand idle for a length of time without charging and drawing too much current from it. These are only a few of the many troubles which occur in storage batteries of the lead-plate type.

What Is Meant by Resonance.

You'll read in any radio magazine or other publication that in order to detect incoming waves you must bring your secondary into resonance. Sounds oddlike, doesn't it? It's very simple. Take two tuning forks. Adjust them to the same pitch and strike one. The other will respond to its vibrations. That's resonance.

Resonance in radio means bringing your couplings to a point of sympathy by tuning carefully with the incoming wave and you'll get it.

RADIO FLASHES

It is now the thing for social clubs to have "radio committees."

An eastern Institution for the blind has installed radio for its boys. The boys receive lessons in the code and learn to copy commercial messages.

Dry cells cannot successfully be used for the filament supply of vacuum tubes. The batteries will hold up for about five minutes, and then they will slowly die down, until nothing at all can be heard.

Radio waves from Queenstown. Ireland, were amplified in New York with such success that they disturbed the proceedings of the Supreme court in a building opposite the receiving sta-

At present France has the most powerful radio station in the world in the American built Lafayette towers near Bordeaux. The station now being erected at Port Jefferson, Long Island, will by the end of the year take first

Dr. H. W. Nichols, an eminent electrical engineer, announces that the ether is not only not of use in radio transmission, but that it is an interference. Dr. Nichols believes that much can be done to remedy the static disturbance by a means of sharper tuning.

Radio outfits have become so numerous in the apartment houses in New York that it has become a problem to find space for the antennae on the roofs. A scheme is being developed to have community service rendered to tenants over the house telephone wires.

Dr. Marconi is reported as saying that radio will result in the junking of the ocean cables, Mr. Mackay of the Commercial Cable system, says Marconl "talks through his hat." It seems to us that neither could be called a disinterested witness, It is only fair to Marconi, however, to say that it is doubtful if he uses his hat as a means of transmission; the ether is too handy.

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